

APRIL 30, 1976

MAY DAY, 1976

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY HAS THESE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE OBSERVANCE OF MAY DAY THIS YEAR--PARTICULARLY IN THE SOVIET UNION:

VOICE:

MAY DAY IS A HOLIDAY WITH A VARIETY OF MEANINGS--CULTURAL, SOCIAL, RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL. IN MOST COUNTRIES--PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH STRONG SOCIALIST TRADITIONS---IT IS CELEBRATED IN SOME WAY, AND THE CUSTOM OF USING MAY DAY TO MARK THE UNITY OF ORGANIZED LABOR ORIGINATED IN THE UNITED STATES ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. BUT EVER SINCE THE COMMUNISTS CAME INTO POWER IN RUSSIA THEY HAVE TRIED TO APPROPRIATE MAY DAY AS AN OCCASION TO DEMONSTRATE THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT UNDER SOVIET LEADERSHIP. MAY DAY CAME TO BE REPRESENTED---IN MOSCOW AT LEAST---AS THE ULTIMATE CELEBRATION OF BOTH MONOLITHIC COMMUNISM AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM.

THAT CONCEPT, HOWEVER, HAS LONG SINCE BEEN SHATTERED---AND THIS YEAR IT SEEMS MORE FRAGMENTED THAN EVER. THE SINO-SOVIET SPLIT---THAT HISTORIC FISSURE IN THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT--APPEARS TO BE AS SERIOUS AS EVER. (OPT.) IN FACT, CHINESE PREMIER HUA-KUO-FENG ISSUED A SHARP DENUNCIATION OF THE SOVIET UNION---ALTHOUGH OF COURSE WITHOUT MENTIONING IT BY NAME---AT A PUBLIC BANQUET THURSDAY NIGHT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND.

(END OPT.) IN THE PAST WEEK, TOO, HIGH OFFICIALS OF ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA HAVE REITERATED THEIR DISAGREEMENT WITH MOSCOW'S INTERPRETATION OF COMMUNIST SOLIDARITY. (OPT.) PRESIDENT CEAUDESCU, IN A SPEECH ON APRIL TWENTY-SIXTH, QUOTED MARX, ENGELS AND LENIN TO BACK UP HIS ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE FOR COMMUNIST

GOVERNMENTS AND PARTIES. AND STANE DOLANC, SECRETARY OF THE YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST LEAGUE, DECLARED IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW THIS WEEK THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY AS IT IS INTERPRETED BY THE SOVIET UNION. THERE CAN BE UNITY AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES, HE SAID, ONLY IF THERE IS RESPECT FOR THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THEM. (END OPT)

AS FOR THE WEST EUROPEAN PARTIES, THEIR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH MOSCOW HAVE BY NOW BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE---SO MUCH SO THAT NO LESS A PERSON THAN MIKHAIL SUSLOV, THE SOVIET PARTY'S NUMBER ONE THEORETICIAN, FELT COMPELLED TO SHARPLY CRITICIZE THEIR DISSENSION IN A MAJOR SPEECH LAST MONTH. (OPT) THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH PARTIES---THE LARGEST IN WESTERN EUROPE---HAVE IN RECENT MONTHS PUBLICLY REJECTED MOSCOW'S IDEOLOGICAL INFALLIBILITY, AND PROCLAIMED THE RIGHT OF A NATIONAL PARTY TO FOLLOW ITS OWN ROAD TO SOCIALISM. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE GONE ON RECORD AS PLEDGING THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PLURALISTIC AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN SAID FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES, BUT EVEN SO IT IS HARDLY THE TRADITIONAL COMMUNIST STRATEGY AS MOSCOW PERCEIVES IT. (END OPT)

AND IN THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF---AFTER MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY OF CONTROL AND INDOCTRINATION---THERE'S ENOUGH FERMENT AND DISSENT AMONG INTELLECTUALS TO INDICATE THAT EVEN IN RUSSIA THERE IS SOMETHING LESS THAN TOTAL SOLIDARITY ABOUT EITHER COMMUNIST DOCTRINE OR PRACTICE. (OPT.) AS FOR THE REST OF EASTERN EUROPE, MAY DAY MAY BRING RECOLLECTIONS OF THE FAMOUS CELEBRATION IN PRAGUE IN NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT, WHEN THE CZECHOSLOVAKIANS FOR A MOMENT THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE "SOCIALISM WITH A HUMAN FACE"---AN ILLUSION WHICH WAS DESTROYED A FEW MONTHS LATER BY SOVIET TANKS. (END OPT.)

MAY DAY, NINETEEN SEVENTY-SIX, WILL BE CELEBRATED IN MANY COUNTRIES AND IN MANY WAYS. IT WILL BE CELEBRATED IN MOSCOW, TOO. BUT CERTAINLY THE TIME HAS LONG SINCE PASSED WHEN MAY DAY CAN BE REPRESENTED AS ADVERTISING EITHER THE WORLDWIDE SOLIDARITY OF COMMUNISM OR THE UNQUESTIONED LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET COMMUNISTS. (OPT.) EVEN IN MOSCOW ITSELF, IN RECENT YEARS, THE OBSERVANCE HAS TAKEN ON A SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENT TONE. AND ONE MAY EVEN SUSPECT THAT THERE, AS ELSEWHERE, THIS ANCIENT FESTIVAL WILL OUTLIVE POLITICAL EXPLOITATION AND SURVIVE AS WHAT IT HAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE---A MEANINGFUL POPULAR CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND FREEDOM. (END OPT.)